

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

# THE VIGILEER

Vol. 53 No. 2

January 19, 2007

Aviano Air Base, Italy

## Fly Bys

### Perimeter road

The flightline perimeter road will be closed due to an exercise from the 555th Fighter Squadron entrance to the 510th Fighter Squadron building from 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

### Say 'I love you'

Aviano members can submit their Valentine message to [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil) for the Feb. 9 issue. Greetings should not exceed 35 words. Messages are printed on a first-come, first-served basis. Submissions must be received by close of business Feb. 2.

### Space Available

Beginning Sunday, the Space Available roll call for Patriot Express missions to Lajes Air Base, Azores, and Baltimore will be conducted an hour earlier than normal. Force protection measures prevent specific times from being printed. Early check-in for passengers traveling in a PCS or TDY status will still be available the day prior to departure from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit the passenger terminal or call Tech. Sgt. Michael Riggle at Ext. 7680.

By Senior Airman  
**Sarah Gregory**  
31st Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs

More than 240 maintainers and pilots from the 510th Fighter Squadron and 510th Aircraft Maintenance Unit deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, Jan. 10.

To prepare for a large-scale deployment such as this one, both units underwent extensive preparation and training.

"We actually started about a year out with the aircraft, making sure major scheduled maintenance is complied with before we get there, so when we are on site we can focus on generating combat sorties," said Capt. Bethany Keller, 510th AMU officer in charge.

Captain Keller added that some maintenance can take up to a week to accomplish, which takes away time from getting the weapons and pilots in the sky.

The 510th FS pilots also trained for the deployment through various exercises and sorties.

## Buzzards deploy, land safely



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

The 510th Fighter Squadron aircraft line up on the Aviano flightline in preparation for take-off.

"We starting preparing in August after the squadron deployed to the Combat Hammer exercise at Hill [Air Force Base, Utah] for live weapons training," said Lt. Col. Andre Poné, 510th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander. "We dropped thousands of pounds of bombs and the pilots practiced surface attack and close-air-support training."

In addition to training at Hill AFB, the 510th FS and 510th AMU deployed to Turkey for the two week Anatolian Eagle exercise in

June and the Red Flag exercise at Nellis AFB, Nev., in August.

"At Red Flag we trained in complex training scenarios that prepared us for combat," said Colonel Poné. "After we returned to Aviano, we started a detailed close-air-support training program."

"The whole squadron prepared by conducting numerous combat training exercises," he said. "We all studied the threat and prepared ourselves mentally, physically and spiritually."

**See Buzzards, Page 7**

**On the move:** The 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron customer service has moved to Bldg. 940 in Area F. Call Ext. 4899 for details.

World's Finest  
MMVA/DUI counter

**12 days ...**

Since Aviano's last DUI.

**51 ...**

Major Motor Vehicle Accidents



### Yellow ribbon

When it comes to supporting the troops, Operation Yellow Ribbon volunteers know what it takes to get the job done.

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### Hilltown

The town of Asolo offers visitors a bird's eye view of vineyards and castles and a glimpse into the town's historical background.

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**Deadline info:** The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Send all information by e-mail to the Vigileer at [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is located in Bldg. 1360, Rm. 19. The Vigileer staff can be reached at Ext. 7344.

**Editorials:** We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with the community. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public.

**World's Finest:** Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations.

## From the Top: Those Who Lead

### 31st Fighter Wing

## Commander's Corner

**By Brig. Gen. Robert Yates**  
*31st Fighter Wing commander*

**W**orld's Finest – I hope you had an outstanding three-day weekend last week. I did! I lounged around, said 'farewell' to several members of the wing (at least I thought it was farewell) as they were set to depart for distant lands in support of the War on Terrorism, caught up on paperwork at home, cleaned the house and took time out to go on a date with my number one girl – Barb! I also watched a lot of football – too much – but it seemed that each game was better than the previous one and I couldn't get off the couch!

So yes, it was an outstanding three-day weekend for me. In addition, I did not receive any wake up calls, or receive reports of drunk drivers...I was thankful for this. However, I do have a 'bone' to pick with you all this weekend.

That 'bone' is this – taking care of one another. Every member of the United States Air Force is a volunteer. Most of us volunteered, first and foremost, because we love our country. We have other motivations as well – pride in belonging to the world's finest military organization, desire to travel, desire to pursue education, desire to learn new things, pursuing an exciting lifestyle, adventure – you name it.

Few of us, hopefully none of us, join to undermine our organization, to hurt others, or to get into trouble with the UCMJ. Yet I'm seeing a small group of folks doing just that – tea mates hurting other teammates, or ignoring the needs of fellow teammates. Hurting and ignoring are not what our wing, "The World's Finest Wing," is about.

On the contrary, taking care and helping is our credo. Take care of your teammates. Take care of those you work with each and every day. Remember: they joined to serve their country just like you did. They joined because they loved America and it's lofty ideals – freedom, liberty, and equality for all. They joined because they wanted to pursue education, learn new things, travel, pursue adventure – you name it. All of them wanted to serve with other Americans to make themselves and the world a better place.

Yet over the past few months, in a few isolated cases, I've seen members of this wing hurt other members of this wing thru assault, accidents, fighting, abuse, neglect. It's time for these behaviors to end, even if the incidents are few.

Last week I mentioned that, if you drink and

drive, you were not part of the "World's Finest Team." This week I want to add another 'category' to the message: hurting teammates is not acceptable among the many, the few, or the one. As I stated previously,

taking care of your World's Finest teammates is our credo. Leaders – I need you all to enforce this standard, among the many, the few, and the one.

As I close I'd like to move on to lighter matters – how about Chaplain (Colonel – retired) Harold Ray and the Martin Luther King Day Celebration at our base chapel? It was a great event! And if you want to talk about enlightening, I must opine that Chaplain Ray was at his inspirational best last Friday.

He spoke of continuing Dr. King's dream, of all the progress we've made and the need for much more progress as we pursue those lofty American goals – liberty, freedom, and equality for all. And it all seemed so real, as Chaplain Ray actually knew Dr. King – he spoke to him as a young man.

Chaplain Ray provided us with a bridge to our inspirational past, and his words inspired all in attendance to pursue America's future.

Thanks to Chaplain Major Sean Neyland for taking this project on, and to all who contributed to making our Martin Luther King Celebration memorable and inspirational.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all for your outstanding and never ending work in the pursuit of freedom, liberty and equality for all. Freedom's torch burns brightly due to your efforts.

Remember, taking care and helping is our credo. Let's help each other as teammates, take care of one another, and when you witness a teammate that isn't living by this credo, have the courage to speak out.

Enjoy your weekend, take care of your family and friends, and drive slowly, soberly or not at all. We're the World's Finest for a reason – you and your leadership.

Lead; lead positively; lead without exception; lead the many, the few and the one.



## Aviano Airman of the Week

**Name:** Airman 1st Class Tessie Cartwright  
**Unit:** 31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron  
**Job:** Public Health technician  
**Hometown:** Bellevue, Neb.  
**Hobbies:** Exercising, reading and shopping  
**Why joined:** To serve my country and for the education and travel opportunities.



## AFSO 21

# 31st OG discusses ways to save time

**By Senior Airman  
Colleen Wieman**

*31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

With the upcoming force reduction cuts in the maintenance career fields base officials held a week-long Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century meeting to determine how to save manpower in the 31st Operations Group.

The meeting focused on combining the two aircraft maintenance units and streamlining the 31st OG flying schedule.

"The previous AFSO 21 event suggested combining the two AMUs with one side handling flying operations and the other aircraft maintenance," said Master Sgt. Paul Vergeldt, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron lead production superintendent. "We would like to try a trial version for a week or two to see if [the idea] works.

"We can't sustain current operations with manpower cuts, so we are adjusting ways we do business. This allows us to meet the same requirements and keep pilots combat ready."

”

— Master Sgt. Derek Lerma

"Right now, half our people are deployed, so we would like to try the same concept with the one squadron here on a smaller scale," he said.

Master Sgt. Derek Lerma, 31st Mission Support Squadron manpower analyst for the 31st Maintenance Group and 31st OG, said having one AMU's

will cut down on manpower.

"We can't sustain current operations with manpower cuts, so we are adjusting ways we do business," he said. "This allows us to meet the same requirements and keep pilots combat ready."

The AFSO 21 meeting also discussed ways to save manning hours by streamlining the flying schedule process.

"Our idea was to create a master [scheduling] template instead of building templates every day," Sergeant Lerma said. "On average, it took 65 steps to create a weekly schedule. With the master template, the number of steps could be cut in half."

Sergeant Lerma added that the template is flexible enough to fly 19 to 44 aircraft a day.

"After being apart of the process, my thinking has changed about AFSO 21 and I think we're going to see a brand new Air Force transform," he said.

**Bouquets:** The Community Center is selling Valentine's Day bouquets. Orders must be in by Jan. 31. To order, call Ext. 5479.

## Aviano Airmen receive non-judicial punishment

*The following are non-judicial punishments Aviano Airmen received during December:*

### **31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**

- An airman first class was charged under Article 108 for willful damage to government property and Article 134 for drunk and disorderly. For this misconduct, the Airman received a suspended reduction to E-2, suspended forfeiture of \$200 for two months, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

### **31st Maintenance Squadron**

- An airman first class was charged under Article 86 for leaving a place of duty without authorization. For this misconduct, the Airman received a suspended reduction to E-2, suspended forfeiture of \$200 for two months, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

### **31st Security Forces Squadron**

- A senior airman was charged

*Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice authorizes commanders to address alleged minor offenses by administering nonjudicial punishment. If a commander concludes the member committed the offense, the commander determines an appropriate punishment.*

under Article 128 for assault and battery. For this misconduct, the Airman received a suspended reduction to E-3, suspended forfeiture of \$846 for two months and a reprimand.

### **603rd Air Control Squadron**

- A senior airman was charged for two violations of Article 92 for willful dereliction of duty. For this misconduct, the Airman received a suspended reduction to E-3, forfeiture of \$500, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

## Aviano to hold job shadow day

**By Jennifer Dailey-Perkins**  
*USAFE School Liaison Office*

Department of Defense Dependents Schools—Europe students will have the opportunity to see the world of work during the 2007 USAFE Job Shadow Day Feb. 2.

Aviano students are looking for people to shadow in a career field they are interested in for the job shadow day. Volunteers can make arrangements directly with the student or through the school.

People who have students shadowing them can mentor, show their regular routine, and teach students how to be successful in the workplace.

To volunteer for a student shadow, e-mail Debbie Lee at [debbie.lee@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:debbie.lee@eu.dodea.edu) for the middle school or Kim James at [kimberly.james@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:kimberly.james@eu.dodea.edu) for the high school. Parents of elementary school students will receive information electronically about elementary school involvement.

# Operation Yellow Ribbon supports troops

By Senior Airman  
Sarah Gregory

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Operation Yellow Ribbon volunteers demonstrated their support Saturday and Sunday for hundreds of troops deploying both from and transiting through Aviano, with snacks, beverages and a friendly face.

About 70 Aviano members were at Hangar Four preparing to deploy and about 210 troops deploying from the states were gathered in Hangar One while their plane refueled.

"The troops have to be sequestered about two to three hours prior to deployment, so after they process through their mobility line, they just sit and wait," said Deborah Watson, Operation Yellow Ribbon coordinator.

That waiting time is where the OYR volunteers come in. They set up tables with snacks and beverages, stationary, books and other small items troops sometimes forget.

"We'll run last-minute errands, provide snacks and drinks, or just be a friendly ear," said Alyson Jackson-Hill, a four-year OYR volunteer. "Some people suddenly have last minute things they want to say, so they'll write letters and we'll mail it for them."

"Being there helps soften the blow of a deployment and lets them know it's not just the families who care about them. They're not just out of sight, out of mind," she said.

OYR originally started when the Global War on Terrorism began and



Photo by Airman 1st Class Liliana Moreno

Barb Yates, right, hands out snacks to members of the 31st Fighter Wing deploying for AEF 5/6 Saturday in Hangar Four.

Aviano had huge numbers of troops stopping here on the rotator.

"They would come in the hundreds, many times a week, and they would be stuck in the hangars for hours at a time," said Mrs. Watson. "Volunteers from the base found out that they were sitting there with nothing, no vending machines, coffee or anything. So [the volunteers] got together and decided they would provide whatever support they could to each plane."

Now, more than four years later, OYR runs strictly on volunteer time and donations of money, food and baked goods.

The rotator that used to fly into Aviano twice a week, taking troops from the states downrange and bringing troops back, was moved to a new location.

"One of the troops' fathers had heard about the program from his son and for two years the father and

the organization he worked for raised money for us," said Mrs. Watson. "When the rotator moved, we felt that the funds should go with it, so the money that came from the states, which was almost \$20,000 for the past 18 months, left too."

The shortage of funds had the OYR staff a little worried, especially when they learned that about 2,000 Army troops were to process through Aviano.

"The program ran on donations before, so we hoped it would be able to again," Mrs. Watson said. "Aviano has stepped up – it's been amazing."

In December, Aviano people and Airman Leadership School Class 07-D spent more than 340 volunteer hours and raised \$2,518 in donations.

While the money raised helped provide items for Airmen deploying for AEF 5/6, Mrs. Watson said OYR could always use more support through donations and volunteers.

"Right now, OYR can take any funds that are donated or any goods that will not go bad," she said. "Anything from the commissary such as beef jerky, individually portion-sized items or bottled water is great."

"It's good to feed them before they get on the plane for five hours," she said.

Donations can be taken to the Airman and Family Readiness Center in Area One. To volunteer, e-mail Deborah Watson at [clanwatson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clanwatson@sbcglobal.net) with a duty or daytime number and an evening or cell phone number. Volunteers have to be flexible due to last-minute schedule changes.

**Volunteers:** To volunteer for any base event, call the Airman and Family Readiness Center volunteer coordinator at Ext. 5407.

## Buzzards, from page 1

All the preparation and training paid off – less than six hours after landing at Balad, some of the 510th FS jets were back in the air, conducting sorties over Iraq.

"We are actually really proud of that," said Captain Keller. "Having our jets flying sorties within six hours is pretty amazing. It's a testament to the hard work our guys did to get those jets ready."

Although the 510th FS and 510th AMU are technically two separate units, the success of their individual missions depends on each other.

Capt. Kevin Tanner, 510th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in charge, said maintenance's goal is "to provide combat-ready aircraft for every air tasking order mission."

The accomplishment of that goal didn't go unnoticed by the Buzzard pilots.

"The maintenance team performed brilliantly in preparing the aircraft for combat operations," said Colonel Poné. "We deployed all 12 aircraft on-time to Balad, and the maintenance professionals had all 12 reconfigured, prepared and readied for combat less than 24 hours."

The two units exclusively train and deploy together, making the move from home base to downrange a seamless transition. The 510th FS and 510th AMU previously deployed to Balad during AEF 5/6 in May 2005.

"We're really one team," said Captain Keller. "When we're down there, we're all from Aviano. It's a one team, one fight kind of thing."



# USAFE celebrates 65 years of Airpower

Courtesy of U.S. Air Forces in Europe  
Public Affairs

**R**amstein Air Base, Germany – United States Air Forces in Europe celebrates its 65th anniversary! The oldest, continuously active Air Force MAJCOM began on Jan. 19, 1942, when the War Department established Headquarters Eighth Air Force.

USAFE continues its forward presence in Europe and Africa – from delivering bombs in World War II to delivering humanitarian supplies to Berlin in 1948-1949; from fighting the Cold War of the 1980s to fighting today's Global War on Terror.

The command deployed to Desert Shield/Storm, flew missions into Sarajevo in the longest humanitarian airlift in history, then converted to combat missions over Kosovo several years later.

Since 9/11, USAFE has supported OIF/OEF with airlift, tankers, fighters and personnel -- today, 70 aircraft and 2000 Airmen fight the war on terror. Last summer, USAFE assisted 14,000 Lebanon evacuees during the Hezbollah-Israeli conflict.

Expanding east and south, USAFE continues its proud tradition as a flexible, agile team building on the outstanding achievements of thousands of Airmen to ensure freedom's future!

"For more than half a century, USAFE airmen have taken the fight to America's and our allies' enemies. All Airmen and civilians assigned to USAFE today, like those who came before, should take pride in the fact that, every day, their service to our nation adds to this command's proud legacy," said Gen. Tom Hobbins, USAFE commander.

## USAFE history

- **First wartime action:** on Aug. 17, 1942 began its daylight precision bombing campaign against Axis Europe
- **D-Day participation:** 171 fighter squadrons with 3,000 aircraft flew 8,722 combat sorties gaining air superiority and disrupted German reinforcements and ground movements.
- **WWII Medals of Honor:** 25 aviators, 16 of them posthumously
- **Berlin Airlift:** in a 24-hour period, 2,764 flights delivers 12,941 tons of supplies and a cargo plane landed or took off from one of Berlin's three airfields every two minutes
- **Operation El Dorado Canyon against Libyan terrorist:** 18 RAF Lakenheath F-111 Aardvarks bombed 5 terrorist targets in Tripoli and Benghazi
- **Operations Desert Shield/Storm:** USAFE deployed 15 percent of its Airmen, 55 percent of its aircraft and 33 percent of its munitions – Spangdahlem's F-4Gs destroyed 143 radar sites
- **Sarajevo Relief Missions:** USAFE C-130s flew 12,886 relief missions, delivering more than 160,000 metric tons of supplies.
- **Joint Task Force Shining Hope:** A mass exodus of Kosovar citizens led to the establishment of a Joint Task Force to provide immediate relief to more than 450,000 refugees as USAFE airlifted food, equipment, and medical supplies to the region.
- **Global War on Terrorism:** USAFE personnel played a key role in the humanitarian airdrops over Afghanistan, loading more than two million humanitarian rations as planes flew daily missions from Ramstein Air Base, Germany to Afghanistan.

**Veterans bonus:** Some South Dakota veterans are eligible for a bonus up to \$500. For more information, visit <http://mva.sd.gov/>.

## Squadrons share tips for DUI prevention

**By Senior Airman  
Colleen Wieman**

*31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

**A**t least four 31st Fighter Wing squadrons have gone more than 1,000 days without a DUI.

As of press time, the 31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron has gone 2,148 days – or almost six years – without a DUI; the 31st Dental Squadron has gone 2,131 days – or nearly six years – without a DUI; the 31st Medical Support Squadron has gone 1,417 days – or almost four years – without a DUI; and the 31st Operation Support Squadron has 1,027 days – or nearly three years – without a DUI.

All the squadrons credit their success to teamwork and have similar programs in place to avoid DUIs.

The 31st DS uses twice-a-month commander's calls to ensure Airmen know their leadership is there to help.

"We have a small squadron of about 53 people and since we're small, we see

our people face-to-face every day," said Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Sobel, 31st DS superintendent. "We're a tight knit group and everyone takes care of each other. We know everyone's plan and everyone has a recall roster in case a plan fails."

The 31st AMDS is also a small squadron, but it faces unique challenges because squadron members don't see each other every day.

"Even though we are separated, we have an 'open squadron policy' where people can go to anyone in the squadron for help," said Senior Airman Dmitri Meyer, 31st AMDS public health technician. "Our squadron uses wingman programs, weekend roll calls and flight plans. Flight NCOs and supervisors also stress responsibility."

The 31st OSS recently reached 1,000 days without a DUI.

"Members of the 31st OSS really use the wingman program and look out for each other," said Tech. Sgt. Shawn

Strubbe, 31st OSS acting first sergeant. "We tend to know our plan and stick to it."

The 31st MDSS also has an effective squadron wingman program and implements weekly squadron and flight safety roll calls.

"There is accountability for individual weekend plans whether they are in or out of town, or if they have a designated driver," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Fordham, 31st MDSS superintendent. "If plans change, the supervisor or chain of command is notified, and at the beginning of the week, we go over how everyone's plan went."

The 31st MDSS also makes sure its people are aware of weather conditions that might change their plans as well as recent motor vehicle accidents and DUIs.

"It's a team effort to take care of one another and ensure you have a wingman that is there for you 24/7," Sergeant Fordham said.

# BAS

31st SFS



Photos by Airman 1st Class Liliana Moreno

Senior Airman Bryan Ables, 31st Security Forces Squadron security response team member, loads a 40mm practice round on an M-203 grenade launcher attached to an M-4 rifle. Security Forces Airmen participated in combat qualification arms training Jan. 11 at the Malnisio range north of Aviano.



# BE DEFENDERS

*Airmen travel to Malnisio for weapons qualification*



**Left:** Senior Airman Bryan Ables and Airman 1st Class Rusty Moreno, 31st Security Forces Squadron entry controller, load a 40 mm practice round into an M-203 grenade launcher.



**Left:** Senior Airman Natalie Butterbaugh, 31st Security Forces Squadron security response team member, fires an M-203 grenade launcher during range qualifications at Malnisio.

Using empty 50-gallon plastic drums as targets, 15 security forces Airmen were trained for deployment and duty qualifications at the Malnisio range.

The 31st SFS trains at the Malinisio range every other month for different weapons qualifications.

**Right:** Senior Airman Ron Hall, 31st Security Forces Squadron armorer, inspects a bolt carrier while cleaning an M-4 rifle. Weapons are cleaned and inspected for safety after each use or one to two times a week.



## ERAU registration

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Term III registration continues through Jan. 26. To register for classes, visit the education center, Bldg. 147 in Area One. For more information, call ERAU at Ext. 5140.

## Tango

A two-hour full-immersion tango class is at 7 p.m. Jan. 29 in the Community Center ballroom. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday. Call 347-331-5569 for more information or to sign up.

## New grad program

The education center seeks students interested in obtaining a master's degree in international relations with Oklahoma University. At least 14 people are needed to sign up for the program to be brought here.

The program consists of 32 credit hours and offers courses in communication, political science, history, human relations, geography and economics. Applicants must have

earned a bachelor's degree or the equivalent from an accredited college or university. To learn more about the program, visit <http://www.gooou.edu>.

To sign up for the program, call Ext. 5330, or stop by the education center, Bldg 147 in Area One. The deadline is Jan. 31.

## COLA survey

The 31st Fighter Wing will conduct an online Cost Of Living Allowance survey through Jan. 31. The survey will assist the Department of Defense in determining future COLA for members stationed at Aviano.

The survey takes about 30 minutes to complete and asks information about on-base and off-base spending habits. The survey can be completed by going to <https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/italy/>.

## Little Sprouts

Little Sprouts, a class designed to teach new and expecting parents about basic baby care and normal newborn appearance, is taught

## Chapel service schedule

### Saturday

The following services are held at the base chapel:

11 a.m. – Seventh Day

Adventist

5:30 p.m. – Catholic Mass

### Sunday

The following services are held at the base chapel:

8:30 a.m. – Liturgical service

10 a.m. – Contemporary service

11:30 a.m. – Catholic Mass

4:30 p.m. – Church of Christ

The following services are held at various locations:

8:30 a.m. – Catholic Mass at the Italian chapel

10 a.m. – Gospel service at the Mass Briefing Facility

Daily Mass is held at noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the base chapel and at the Italian chapel on Fridays.

at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 5 and 12 at the Life Skills Support Center, Bldg. 108 in Area One.

For more information, or to sign up for classes, call the New Parent Support Program at Ext. 5667.

## CCAF

The Community College of the Air Force is finalizing its numbers for the April graduating class. Transcripts must be turned in to the education center by Feb. 9. To check CCAF degree progress, visit the virtual education center through the Air Force Portal at [www.my.af.mil](http://www.my.af.mil).

## NCO development

An NCO Professional Enhancement Seminar is scheduled for Feb. 20 to 24 at the Professional Development Center, Bldg. 220 in Area One.

The course is for staff or technical sergeants who attended Airman Leadership School more than three years ago and have not attended NCO Academy. The seminar offers a unique opportunity for junior NCOs to interact with their peers, senior leadership panels, and senior NCOs.

To sign up for the seminar, call Master Sgt. Michael Remmert at Ext. 4480.

## Scholarships

Applications for the 2007 Scholarships for Military Children deadline is Feb. 21. Applicants must write an essay on the topic: "If you were granted the ability to change the outcome of any event in history, what would you

change and why?" Applications can be turned in to any commissary. For more information, visit <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

## Master's degrees

The University of Phoenix will hold master of business administration and master of arts in education classes in March. To sign up or for more information, call Ext. 5139 or e-mail [theresa.thorn@phoenix.edu](mailto:theresa.thorn@phoenix.edu).

## Promotion cycle

The technical and master sergeant promotion testing cycle is scheduled for Feb. 1 through March 31. All eligible sergeants departing Aviano for a PCS or a TDY must test prior to departure. All promotion testing is conducted in Area One, Bldg. 186, Room 4. For more information, call Kathrine Kosmala at Ext. 5465.

## Debit cards

Debit cards do not carry the same legal protection as credit cards. Federal law limits liability on a debit card to \$50 only if the financial institution is notified within two business days after a theft or loss. People who wait longer than 60 days after bank statements are mailed could lose all the money in their account. Only use a debit card that requires a personal identification number and use a credit card for all non-cash purchases. Never use a debit card for online purchases. For more financial information, call Tom Snyder at Ext. 5656.

## Reel Times

**Today, 7 p.m.** - "Stranger than Fiction" Rated PG-13 - A novelist who writes tragedies struggles to complete her latest book, but she can't find a way to kill off her main character, Harold Crick. The novelist has no idea Harold Crick is a real person who becomes aware of her intentions to kill him through her narrating voice. Harold realizes he must find a way to change the novelist's mind and his story's ending. Starring: Will Ferrell, Maggie Gyllenhaal

**Saturday 2 p.m.** - "Happy Feet" Rated PG - Deep in Antarctica in the land of Emperor Penguins, each penguin needs a heart song to attract a soul mate. A penguin is born who can't sing, but he happens to be a brilliant tap dancer. Animated.

**Sunday, 7 p.m.** - "Let's go to Prison" Rated R - Felon John Lyshitski has figured out the best way to get revenge on the now dead judge who sent him to jail. He decides to watch the official's obnoxious son, Nelson, survive prison. John becomes Nelson's cellmate to ensure he receives the full prison experience. Starring: Dax Shepard, Will Arnett

**Wednesday, 7 p.m.** - "Stranger than Fiction" Rated PG-13

**Thursday, 7 p.m.** - "Let's go to Prison" Rated R

*(Titles and times are courtesy of [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), and are subject to change.)*



### Fly Bys

#### Local events

- An antique furniture and art exhibit is from 3 to 8 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Pordenone fairgrounds. The cost is €10.

- An Andy Warhol exhibit is on display through Jan. 27 at the Vecchiato New Art Galleries in Padova. For more information, visit [www.vecchiatoarte.it](http://www.vecchiatoarte.it).

- An exhibit displaying paintings of Venice in the 8th century is from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays through April 8 in Casa dei Carraresi, Treviso. For more information, visit [www.venezia900.it](http://www.venezia900.it).

Call Ext. 7555 for more information.

#### Passports

Recent changes to passport requirements for U.S. citizens do not affect U.S. military personnel traveling on orders, including leave. There are no changes proposed for military members traveling on active duty.

Currently, an active duty military member is not required to present a valid passport to enter or depart the United States. However, spouses and dependents are required to present a passport or a visa, if applicable, when traveling to the United States.

For more information, call the Military Personnel Flight customer service section at Ext. 7216 or visit <http://travel.state.gov/> for the latest passport information.

## Tourists can relax in the medieval town of Asolo

**Story and photo by  
Senior Airman Colleen Wieman  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs**

Overlooking beautiful valleys, the medieval town of Asolo sits high on a hill more than an hour west of Aviano.

This town isn't short on historical sites ranging from castles to centuries-old churches. The English poet Robert Browning once lived here and, in the 15th century, Asolo was home and prison to the Queen of Cyprus. The town is dotted with signs in English explaining the significance of each historic location.

A fortress called Rocca looms over the town and it is the first thing visitors notice when approaching the town. Visitors can tour the inside of the fortress on weekends and holidays. Opening hours are posted near the bottom of the hill so people can avoid making the climb up to the Rocca unnecessarily. To get to the fortress, visitors must climb hundreds of uneven cobblestone steps. It's best to wear shoes with thick soles, or you will feel each stone while making the climb. On top of the hill, visitors can get an amazing 360-degree view of the vineyard-covered hills below.

In town, there is another castle called the Castello della Regina near the Piazza

Garibaldi. The piazza is marked by the lion water fountain in the center. This castle has a museum and a restaurant inside. Near this castle is a beautiful cathedral with sparkling mosaics and a city museum detailing the area's history.

People in the mood for a stroll can head west towards the Saint Anna convent. The road towards the convent is marked by a unique garden dotted with statues, views of vineyards and a large mansion with interesting architecture called Casa Longobarda. Built in the 16th century, an underground tunnel connects Casa Longobarda to Villa Contarini on the other side of the hill.

The town is very small and everything is within reasonable walking distance. Most of the streets are extremely narrow and uneven and it might not be wise to drive through with a large car. There are a few parking spots within the center of town, but it's best to park outside the town and walk in.

The town is bike friendly and cyclists tend to take a break here. With its romantic views, convenient cafes, friendly people and a bit of history, visitors can rest in Asolo.

For more information on historic sites and events in Asolo, visit <http://www.frommers.com/destinations/asolo/>.



**Left:** From the Castello della Regina, visitors can take photos of the town center and learn the history of Asolo and its landmarks at a nearby information booth. One of the best places to take photos of the valley is at the Rocca. The Rocca, or medieval fortress, is one of the main focal points of the town. From the fortress, visitors can see a panoramic view of the surrounding area.

**Travel tip:** Avoid being a target of crime by not wearing conspicuous clothing, expensive jewelry and carrying excessive amounts of cash.



Courtesy photo

People can sign up today for an ITT guided trip to **Turin**, home to the 2006 Winter Olympics and famous Egyptian museums.

## Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Tours office include:

- Saturday – Guided Florence
- Saturday – Slovenia Rhapsody
- Saturday – Lugano, Switzerland and chocolate factory

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from destinations as scheduled and will do everything possible to

make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area.

Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because most tours involve walking. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.



Courtesy photo

Massage therapist Shawn Hamilton prepares the massage room located in the Area Two Fitness Center. Both the room and the fitness center were renovated in 2006.

## Therapist soothes away tension

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Sometimes after a tough week on the job or a particularly grueling workout, nothing feels better than a soothing massage.

Here to rub Aviano's tensions away is the 31st Services Squadron massage therapist, Shawn Hamilton.

"Massage can help ease muscle pain caused by an accident, strain or tension," said Mrs. Hamilton, who has been practicing at Air Force bases for the last eight years. "Massage also helps increase circulation and a person's overall well-being."

While some may view massage therapy as something that only a doctor should prescribe, Mrs. Hamilton, who attended 600 hours of school to become certified as a massage therapist, said almost anyone can get a massage.

"While massage is for everyone, young or old, men and women, there are a few people who cannot receive massages for medical reasons," she said. "If someone suspects they may not be eligible, they should consult their doctor or inform the massage therapist prior to receiving a massage."

Although there are more than 1,000 different types of massage, Mrs. Hamilton said she doesn't have a menu of services for people to choose from.

"I prefer to meet with a person to talk about their individual needs before giving a massage," she said. "I try to cater the massage depending on what's going on with a person's body or emotions."

Tailoring a massage to a person's specific needs can be helpful for people with chronic pain or those who are very athletic like Danielle Eigner, 31st Medical Operations Support Squadron.

"She's very detailed and will work with you to make your massage match your needs," said Ms. Eigner. "Shawn does a lot of deep tissue, muscle therapy and aromatherapy, which is helpful for me since I play a lot of sports."

With Aviano's demanding mission environment and the Air Force's emphasis on Fit to Fight, having a massage can help alleviate some everyday stress.

"Massage helps repair the body from the stresses of everyday life both mentally and physically," explained Mrs. Hamilton. "After receiving a massage, people often feel as though the weight of the world has been lifted from their shoulders and it helps them be better prepared to face the next day's challenges."

Massages are available Monday through Friday at the Area Two Fitness Center. To make an appointment, call Mrs. Hamilton at 349-364-0684. Calls are not answered during a session, so people are asked to leave a message.

## Fly Bys

### Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners are participating in a Volksmarch at 8 a.m. Sunday. The group meets at the Bar Municipio in Roveredo and heads to Rorai Piccolo di Porcia. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

### Hockey players

The Aviano Ice Dragons are looking for hockey players. The team practices at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays in Claut. Pads and helmets are required and available online. The team plays scrimmages with local teams and in the annual U.S. Air Forces in Europe tournament in Garmisch, Germany.

For more information, call Mark Boucher at 346-086-5270.

### Friday golfing

People who play golf on Fridays during January are eligible to win a free golf cart rental for nine holes. Winners will be notified the next business day. For more information, call the Alpine Golf Course at Ext. 7386.

### Ski fittings

Outdoor recreation offers ski and snowboard fittings and the staff can fix or tune-up winter sports equipment. For more information, call Ext. 8623.

### Grifoni football

The Aviano Grifoni full-contact semi-pro American football team has openings for its 2007 season. For details, call Jerome Baysmore at 348-731-3388 or e-mail [avianogrifoni@yahoo.com](mailto:avianogrifoni@yahoo.com).

### 50 cent deal

The bowling center offers 50 cent-a-man from noon to 6 p.m. Sundays. Guests pay a \$3 cover charge and pay \$.50 each for hamburgers, wings, grilled cheese, fries and bowling shoes. All items have a limit and guests must present discount receipt to staff.

# Chief of staff mandates roll calls

*Weekly sessions keep Airmen up-to-date on latest topics*

I'm extremely proud of the tremendous dedication and sacrifice each of you make every day to ensure the security of our nation. Our Air Force is the greatest on this planet because of your professionalism, dedication and ability to get the job done right. America's air, space and cyberspace power is second to none.

One way we can continue to add to our effectiveness is by increasing our communications. Information flows at an incredibly rapid pace today and electronics have too often replaced people talking to people. We all have access to good information on e-mail, on our Air Force Web sites and through the television media. However, many Airmen work long shifts and then have to share an office computer to check e-mail or military Web sites. This doesn't make it easy to keep up with the information you really need to know. Even though we are all busy, it's vital our civilians, officers and enlisted stay informed on the latest topics.

Our Chief of Staff recently mandated weekly Roll Call for supervisors at every level. These weekly meetings should help keep Airmen informed on current issues, clear up confusion and dispel rumors, and provide additional

“ Even though we are all busy, it's vital our civilians, officers and enlisted stay informed on the latest topics. ”

face-to-face communication between supervisors and their teams. A weekly product called “Roll Call” highlights the topics that supervisors should include in the weekly meetings. “Roll Call” is posted on Air Force Link every Friday. This makes it easy for supervisors to print it, and any other documents released by our Air Force senior leaders, and then share this info with their co-workers. Back in my time as an aircraft maintainer, we had a daily Roll Call that allowed current information to be shared with everyone.

Getting together once a week where we can discuss the current hot topics and have a chance for face-to-face contact with everyone is invaluable. If there are still questions about a particular issue, then there's a great opportunity to address this up the

chain of command for clarification.

We have the best educated, trained and motivated Airmen in our Air Force history. Roll Call helps everyone appreciate the opportunities and challenges our Air Force faces. The tried and true statement, “knowledge is power,” is more accurate today than ever because of the changing and challenging environment. Keep up the great work and take advantage of your Roll Call to ensure you understand how today's Air Force issues will affect you.

  
RODNEY J. MCKINLEY  
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

## Recognizing The World's Finest

Aviano Youth Programs would like to congratulate the following youth who were winners in different art media in the annual Fine Arts contest. The AYP staff would like to extend wishes of good luck as their artwork represents Aviano at the regional level.

The 9 years old and younger category: **Mariah Ferry, Victoria Pugh, Kelsey Caswell and Paige Abdinor**

The 10-12 year old category: **Dextinee Dorsey Thomas and Jeremy Cruz**

• Congratulations to **Airman 1st Class Austin Weiland**, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, for the outstanding completion of his career development courses.

## Graduates

### Airman Leadership School

Congratulations to the following senior airmen and staff sergeants who graduated Aviano's Airman Leadership School Dec. 21. ALS is the first milestone of Professional Military Education for the Air Force's enlisted corps. These Airmen are ready to assume the responsibility of becoming a noncommissioned officer.

John Levitow Award recipient: **Matthew McGivney**, 31st Communications Squadron; Leadership Award recipient: **Marius Leak**, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron; Academic Award recipient and Distinguished Graduate recipient: **Christian Wells**, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Distinguished Graduates: **Christopher Sawhill**, 31st Security Forces Squadron; **Christopher Manfredi**, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and **Cody Carter**, 31 Civil Engineer Squadron.

31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron: **Staff Sgt. April Jnofinn**, 31st Aircraft Maintenance

Squadron: **James Buslon Hernandez, Patrick Connell, Jesus Menacho, Joel Stanfield, Jeremy Gardner and Timothy Vaca**. 31st Civil Engineer Squadron: **Michael Pfister, Shawn Jemmett, Nicholas Christensen, Eric Watkins and James Betts**. 31st Communications Squadron: **Brandon Walker, Charlie Yadao and Justin Davis**. 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron: **Gwendolyn Smith, David Cheechov and Jordan Brusseau**. 31st Maintenance Group: **Angelo Brightwell and Marshall Varrato**. 31st Maintenance Operations Squadron: **Anthony Kendall**. 31st Maintenance Squadron: **Antonio Saldana, Jennifer Fesperman, Angel Rodriguez, Steven Martin, Robert Wohlschlaeger, Matthew Warden and Mitchell Reeves**. 31st Medical Operations Squadron: **Kassandra Berg**. 31st Security Forces Squadron: **Ernie Luna, Daniel Cabrera and Ronald Weaver**. 510th Fighter Squadron: **Dinishia Brown**, 603rd Air Control Squadron: **Joseph Swe, Christopher Sorrel and Charles Rice**. 704th Munitions Support Squadron: **Andrew Oss, Nicholas Ramsey and David Manke**. 724th Air Mobility Squadron: **Frank Lopez**.